

Statement  
Before the General Assembly's  
Government Administration and Elections Committee  
Monday  
March 16, 2009

**Re: HB 6375: An Act Concerning Review and Termination of Certain Boards and Commissions**

Good afternoon Senator Slossberg and Representative Spallone. My name is Margherita Giuliano. I am a pharmacist and the Executive Vice President of the Connecticut Pharmacists Association. The Connecticut Pharmacists Association is a professional organization representing approximately 1,000 pharmacists in the state. I am here to oppose HB 6375: An Act Concerning Review and Termination of Certain Boards and Commissions

This bill seeks to terminate the Commission of Pharmacy in July, 2012 unless it is reestablished. We believe this would be detrimental to the profession as well as the public.

In our profession, we focus on the ABC's of pharmacy as a fundamental cornerstone. "A" stands for the professional association. CPA was founded in 1876. In 1877, a small committee of CPA members was formed to prepare a Pharmacy Act for self regulation. Within a year this proposed Pharmacy Act was submitted to the legislature. Things were no different then than they are now. It took until 1881 to actually enact the Pharmacy Act. Self regulation and advocacy for the profession with the welfare of the public as a primary consideration is still a priority for the Association.

The "B" in pharmacy stands for the Boards of pharmacy. In Connecticut we refer to our board as a Commission. Following along in history, in 1882, CPA submitted a new Pharmacy Bill that would establish a Commission of Pharmacy. In 1883, Governor Bigelow appointed the first three Commissioners of Pharmacy.

This Commission has a long history - 126 years to be precise. The men and women that serve as Commissioners do so at the request of the Governor and do not get paid. They are reimbursed simply for their mileage in traveling to the State Office Building once a month for a meeting. These men and women are experts in their area of practice; their volunteer time to help regulate their profession is truly priceless. Having worked for the state as the Board administrator to the Commission, I do not follow where the actual savings will come from by eliminating this board. Current state employees will still be required – so there will be no savings there. Without a board, you may actually have to hire more staff to deal with the different cases. There is no other state in the country that operates without a Board of Pharmacy. Also, this bill does not determine who would assume this responsibility. Pharmacy practice is complicated. As we evolve into a more patient centric practice it will be critical to have oversight from individuals that have a full understanding of the profession and what is considered to be best practices and standards of practice.

I realize that we are in difficult economic times; however, eliminating this long-standing Commission will not save the state any significant money. The service these men and women perform for the consumers of the state of Connecticut and for pharmacy professionals certainly outweighs their small cost of mileage reimbursement. I urge the committee to consider these facts when making a decision on terminating the existence of the Commission of Pharmacy.